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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 4 December 1990, the General Assembly adopted resolution 45/62 F entitled "Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures", the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
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> "...
>
> "1. Recommends the guidelines to all States for implementation, taking fully into account the specific political, military and other conditions prevailing in a region, on the basis of initiatives and with the agreement of the States of the region concerned;
>
> "2. Also recommends to all States that have started to implement confidence-building measures to pursue further and strengthen this process;
>
> "3. Appeals to all States to consider the widest possible use of confidence-building measures in their international relations, including bilateral, regional and global negotiations, especially in times of political tension and crises;
>
> "4. Invites the Secretary-General to continue to collect relevant information from all Member States;
>
> "5. Appeals to all Member States that have not yet done so to make their contribution to the report of the Secretary-General;
>
> "6. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled 'Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures'."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the same resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 26 February 1992, requested all those Member States that had not yet done so to transmit relevant information on this matter by 1 June 1992. To date the Secretary-General has received replies from Cameroon, Finland, Nigeria and Portugal, which are reproduced in section II below. Any further replies will be issued as addenda to the present document.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CAMEROON

[Original: French]

[24 July 1992]

1. The Government of the Republic of Cameroon, having taken note of General Assembly resolution 45/62 F of 4 December 1990 entitled "Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures", wishes to provide the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the following information.

2. Over the past four years, Cameroon has contributed actively to the promotion of peace, security, confidence-building and development in the Central African subregion.

3. The various initiatives it has taken in conjunction with the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) have thus far resulted in:

(a) The holding in February 1988, at the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa at Lomé, of a conference on the promotion of confidence-building, security and development within the framework of the Economic Community of Central African States;

(b) The organization at Yaoundé, from 17 to 21 June 1991, of a seminar-workshop on conflict resolution, crisis prevention and management and confidence-building among the member States of the Economic Community of Central African States;

(c) The adoption on 6 December 1991, by the United Nations General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, of resolution 46/37 B entitled "Regional confidence-building measures", in which:

> "The General Assembly ...
>
> 2. Welcomes the initiative taken by the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States with a view to developing confidence-building measures, disarmament and development in their subregion, by, in particular, the creation, under the auspices of the United Nations, of a standing advisory committee on security questions in Central Africa".

4. The establishment of this advisory committee at the organizational meeting to be held at Yaoundé in July 1992 will mark a decisive step forward in this dynamic effort to develop confidence-building measures, an undertaking in which the Government of Cameroon has placed considerable hope.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[14 May 1992]

1. Finland has participated actively in the negotiations of regional confidence-building measures in Europe, as well as in the drafting of the global guidelines endorsed by the General Assembly in 1988. 1/

2. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has created a community of values and a unity of purpose in a region that covers transatlantic as well as Eurasian lands. The number of participating States has increased to 52.

3. Within the CSCE process, the Final Act adopted at Helsinki on 1 August 1975 contained a number of confidence-building measures. Since then, those measures have been implemented and further developed. They have been of invaluable help for Europe during the dramatic process of transition from the cold war division to the value community.

4. The Vienna Document of 1992 is the most recent and comprehensive package of confidence- and security-building measures designed to promote openness and to strengthen confidence and security among the participating States.

5. The agreed measures include an annual exchange of detailed information about military forces and their equipment, information on plans for the deployment of weapons and information on military budgets. There is also a mechanism for consultation regarding unusual military activities and cooperation concerning hazardous incidents of a military nature. Voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities is another innovative measure. The practice of notification of military activities, their observation and inspection, have reduced misunderstandings and suspicions between the participating States.

6. In the view of Finland, the implementation of those measures has proceeded well. Finland has, in its internal decision-making process, attached great importance to the full implementation of those measures and expects the same from the other CSCE participating States.

7. The Europe of today has succeeded in reducing military threats and means of conflict. There is still ample scope for new and even more effective confidence-building measures, however.

8. At the end of the Helsinki Follow-up Meeting later this year, the CSCE Summit is expected to adopt the terms of reference for a new security forum

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1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifteenth Special Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/S-15/3), para. 41.

open to all CSCE States. They will comprise negotiations on disarmament and arms control, as well as regular consultations and cooperation in security matters. They will also include further development of the Vienna Document of 1992.

NIGERIA

[Original: English]

[13 July 1992]

1. Nigeria traditionally maintains a defensive force posture without necessarily deploying troops around its borders, which, in itself, is a confidence-building measure. Besides, Nigeria's armament level is considered moderate, given the size of the country and its armed forces, which further promotes the confidence of its neighbours.

2. Nigeria has always used bilateral, subregional and/or continental bodies to discuss and resolve differences with her neighbours. Indeed, Nigeria has a permanent Boundary Commission, which meets with neighbours, in addition to the Quadripartite Agreement within the framework of which periodic consultations are held with Benin, Ghana and Togo on, among other things, security. Apart from those, there is a Protocol of Non-Aggression (1978) to the Treaty of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), concluded at Lagos on 28 May 1975, 1/ within which security matters in the West African subregion can be discussed. Consequently, Nigeria sees no reason for the creation of another ECOWAS body charged with the discussion of security matters, as the existing machinery within the organization can always be used for peace-keeping and/or peacemaking efforts like the ECOWAS Cease-fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).

PORTUGAL

[Original: English]

[12 June 1992]

A. Preliminary remarks

1. This information is a progress report on developments in a given period under review (from 1988, when the guidelines were adopted, until today) and focusing on, but not limited to, the area of competence of the European Community member States. The following refrains from referring explicitly to events and developments in other regions, which, in other contexts, could not possibly be neglected.

1/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1010, No. 14843.

B. Introduction

2. The United Nations guidelines for confidence-building measures on a global or regional level as adopted in 1988 rightly call for a comprehensive approach to confidence-building, which will have to include activities in practically all fields of international cooperation. The guidelines also stress the importance of disarmament measures and of their contribution to the prevention of war.

3. In the period since the forty-fifth General Assembly, overwhelming developments have taken place in the European region, which brought about - and were accelerated by - speedy progress in building confidence and laying the foundations of cooperative security structures in that region. At the same time, in the wake of those events new conflicts arose in some parts of the region. They highlight the ever-increasing urgency of confidence-building as a concrete, persistent and continuous progress which step-by-step exterminates the roots of force.

4. For those reasons, the following information provided by the European Community member States for the period under review concentrates on confidence-building measures which, during this period:

(a) Have accompanied disarmament negotiations and facilitated their successful conclusion; or

(b) Contribute to stabilising the achievements of disarmament agreements and to making them irreversible; or

(c) Are building blocks in dikes erected to combat the proliferation of all categories of weapons.

C. Confidence-building measures in the field of conventional disarmament and arms control

5. Transparency and openness are basic conditions for confidence-building, particularly in the military field where, in times of confrontation and mistrust, secrecy used to be considered as a key word for security. The breakthrough in military confidence-building was achieved with the document of the Stockholm Conference, 1986, when for the first time measures relevant to refraining from the threat or use of force, to prior notification, as well as observation of certain military activities, and to verification were agreed by all CSCE member States. In November 1990, the first phase of negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures (CBSMS) concluded with the Vienna Document 1990 which, together with the CFE Treaty, is an expression of a new, cooperative approach towards military matters within CSCE.

6. It was a new instrument of exchange and evaluation of information on military forces including data on plans for the deployment of major weapon and equipment systems. Furthermore it established a mechanism for consultation

and cooperation as regards unusual military activities in order to reduce the risk of military conflict. The provisions of this document are already being implemented. Since 1 July 1991, 38 evaluation visits and 3 visits to air bases have taken place with the participation of many CSCE member States. Mutual inspections, which had already begun in 1987 under the provisions of the Stockholm document, have continued (all in all 53 inspections). Information on and observation of certain military activities, which also began under the Stockholm document regime, have constantly continued, too. As a positive side effect, all these activities promote personal contacts among military and non-military representatives of member States and thus are particularly suited to creating a climate of mutual trust.

7. To facilitate the exchange of relevant information, an electronic communication network has been established between capitals. At present, 24 CSCE member States and the conflict prevention centre in Vienna are connected.

8. Under the 1990 Vienna Document, CSCE member States have adopted and made compulsory the annual exchange of information on their military budgets on the basis of the categories set out in the United Nations - "instrument for standardized international reporting of military expenditures" - but pertaining to the coming instead of the past year.

9. The 1992 Vienna Document was adopted by CSCE member States on 4 March 1992 and entered into force on 1 May 1992. It incorporates earlier documents of confidence- and security-building measures of the CSCE and creates a new quality in the area of confidence-building by adopting additional measures. Among the new measures are the extension of exchange of military information, now including technical data of weapon systems and prior notification of planned increases in personnel strength of active and non-active formations and combat units, the demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems and constraints on military activities. In the field of risk reduction, participating States are encouraged voluntarily to host visits to dispel concerns about military activities. The zone of application of these confidence-building measures is defined so as to include the territories of the new CSCE member States in Central Asia. Military confidence-building in Europe is embedded in the continuing CSCE process with its provisions for crisis prevention and cooperative security (see letter dated 11 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, and enclosed documentation (A/47/89-S/23576)).

10. The North Atlantic Cooperation Council constituted on 20 December 1991 is another example of a concrete contribution to a climate of increasing confidence through dialogue, exchange of opinions and new types of cooperation. It comprises the member States of the North Atlantic Alliance and former members of the Warsaw Pact, including the new Republics of the former Soviet Union.

11. The Western European Union, too, has strengthened its existing relations with Central, Eastern and South-Eastern European countries by structuring

dialogue, consultations and cooperation. Thus, new efforts have been made for making its activities more transparent and for building up a higher level of confidence in Europe.

12. The signing of the Treaty on Open Skies on 24 March 1992 was of great importance to confidence-building in Europe and beyond. It creates the framework for air observation of the territory of member States from Vancouver to Vladivostok. Although designed for transparency in military matters and enhancing security through confidence- and security-building measures, this system could also be used for civilian purposes, such as environmental protection.

13. During the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly, the European Community member States, together with Japan, tabled a draft dealing with transparency in armaments which, after intensive consultation with Member States, was adopted as resolution 46/36 L on 9 December 1991. This (-EAST-)on, when duly implemented, will provide the Secretary-General with a universal and non-discriminatory register of conventional arms transfer open for consultation by all States as a first step towards enhanced transparency in the field of conventional arms. The overwhelming vote in favour of the resolution demonstrated emerging confidence that transparency benefits all, does not limit States' own security and plays a vital role in the achievement of agreements in this area.

D. Confidence-building measures in the field of weapons of mass destruction

14. The first concrete example of confidence-building measures in the field of weapons of mass destruction can be seen in the implementation of the INF Treaty concluded between the United States of America and the Soviet Union, when a whole class of nuclear weapons was destroyed under comprehensive verification measures. During the period under review, a great number of mutual inspections by parties to the treaty took place on the territory of relevant European States to verify the elimination of those weapons.

15. The two nuclear Powers which are members of the European Community made a meaningful contribution to the process of nuclear disarmament and thus to the strengthening of confidence in this field by making reductions in some of their nuclear-weapon programmes. Moreover, France has decided to suspend its nuclear testing for 1992.

16. As long as the threat to international peace through the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction exists and even increases, all unilateral, bilateral or multilateral measures capable of diminishing the scope and speed of proliferation can contribute to reducing fear and mistrust. Relevant steps taken in the nuclear field have been detailed in the working paper submitted by the Presidency on behalf of the European Community and its member States to Working Group II of the 1992 session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (A/CN.10/172). The establishment of a Science and Technology

Centre in the Russian Federation, which will contribute to non-proliferation objectives, while furthering international cooperation on the civilian applications of military technology, may be considered as an example of a confidence-building new approach to coping with the risks of proliferation. All European Community member States have played an active role in launching this initiative and have extended substantial support to the Centre.

17. During the period under review, the European Community and its member States have continued to participate actively in multilateral efforts to identify and implement confidence-building measures in other categories of weapons of mass destruction.

18. With respect to biological weapons, the Third Review Conference in September 1991 continued the elaboration of confidence-building measures on the basis of those agreed upon by the Second Review Conference in 1986. Member States have already begun to implement this by reporting to the United Nations. Following a decision by the Third Review Conference, a discussion on confidence-building and verification in this field also took place during a first meeting of experts at Geneva from 30 March to 10 April 1992.

19. With regard to chemical weapons, it has become clear from the ongoing negotiations on a global, comprehensive and verifiable convention that they will bring about a detailed, large-scale verification system. By covering a very important industrial branch, this scheme will assume a pioneering role, creating transparency and confidence beyond its immediate area of application.

E. Middle East Peace Process

20. The European Community and its member States have begun to participate in the work of the Working Groups on Arms Control and Regional Security of the Middle East Peace Process. On the basis of their experience in the field of disarmament and in the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and especially in confidence-building measures, they intend to make a constructive contribution to this ongoing process.